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NIGERIA FUTURES SUMMIT

Communique



Nigeria Futures Summit 2024 Communique

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(NGYouthSDGs)

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Introduction

The Nigeria Futures Summit 2024, hosted by the Network of Youth for Sustainable Initiative (NGYouthSDGs) with the support of the German Embassy, convened over two days in Abuja, Nigeria, bringing together youth-led Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), governmental representatives, international organisations, and climate advocates. This summit served as a vital platform to amplify youth voices in climate action, empower youth CSOs, and collaboratively define Nigeria's climate priorities ahead of COP29.

Objectives of the Summit

The primary objectives of the summit were to:

- Showcase Achievements:** Offer youth CSOs from the #ClimateActionForStrongerNaija project a platform to present their work, share successes, and discuss challenges related to sustainability and climate action in their states
- Foster Collaboration:** Facilitate networking and knowledge-sharing among youth organisations, enabling them to learn from each other's experiences and explore potential collaborations.
- Shape National Priorities:** Engage participants, policymakers and development partners in discussions to identify and prioritise Nigeria's climate action goals for COP 29, with a particular focus on youth leadership and involvement.
- Advocate for Youth Leadership:** Promote the integration of youth perspectives into Nigeria's climate action plans and programmes, ensuring that young voices are heard and valued in decision-making processes.

Key Outcomes and Discussions

1. Youth CSOs Exchange Forum

Participants highlighted the role of youth CSOs in raising climate awareness, driving community-based adaptation, and mobilising young people at the grassroots level. Through capacity-building support from NGYouthSDGs, CSOs led step-down training and physical community dialogues in Delta, Enugu, Kaduna, Nasarawa and Ondo States to inform the co-creation of Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPA) and foster climate resilience across communities.

2. Renewable Energy and Climate Finance

Discussions emphasised the need for alternative energy solutions, particularly in rural areas, and the importance of climate finance mechanisms, such as cap-and-trade systems, to support sustainable projects. A recommendation was made for simplifying renewable energy conversations to engage a wider audience.

3. Building Resilience: Adaptation Strategies for Nigeria

The summit highlighted the necessity of disaster risk reduction (DRR) training for youths, enhancing climate financing awareness, and leveraging creative arts as tools for climate advocacy. Youth participants were encouraged to build networks for knowledge sharing to increase community resilience.

4. Youth Advocacy and Leadership in Climate Policy

Effective strategies for youth engagement in climate policy highlighted were organising awareness campaigns, training in leadership skills, and involving youth in policy discussions. CSOs and young leaders stressed the importance of government collaboration and inclusivity, particularly for persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups.

5. Grassroots Innovation and Youth-Led Solutions

Panelists discussed the successes of youth-led initiatives and the value of collaboration for scaling up grassroots climate action. Youth-led organisations: NGYouthSDGs, Eobarter, and Eco-cyclers shared examples of innovative solutions, they are all leading to inspire attendees to leverage local solutions for global climate issues.

For instance:

- Network of Youth for Sustainable Initiative (NGYouthSDGs): Creating a platform to amplify youth voices and involve young people in policies and programs that support climate leadership.
- Ecobarter: Building technologies to collect, tokenize & transform wastes into lifestyle products without leaving anyone behind.
- Eco-cyclers: Executing social interventions for climate education, waste recycling, and solving environmental degradation in underserved communities, especially for women and youths in Enugu State, Nigeria.

6. Defining Nigeria's Priorities for COP29

Government officials and youth representatives explored key priorities for COP29, including the creation of green jobs, tackling youth migration, addressing gender disparities in climate impact, and involving youth in the development of NDC 3.0. The importance of understanding community-specific challenges for effective climate advocacy was a recurring theme.

Recommendations

- **Strengthen Youth CSO Capacity:** Ongoing training in report writing, stakeholders engagement and mobilisation, financial management, programmes impact assessment, monitoring and evaluation will empower youth CSOs to drive impactful climate action.
- **Facilitate Access to Climate Finance:** Establishing financial mechanisms and simplifying funding processes will enable youth-led projects to secure the necessary resources.
- **Promote Renewable Energy Solutions:** Expanding renewable energy access in rural communities will support climate resilience and economic growth.
- **Enhance Inclusive Climate Programs:** Ensure accessibility and representation for persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups in climate initiatives.
- **Create Platforms for Collaboration:** Build networks connecting youth CSOs with government, international organisations, and private sector partners for shared climate goals.
- **Prioritise Local Adaptation Plans:** Encourage government adoption or incorporation of Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPA) developed by youth organisations to enhance climate resilience in communities based on the perceived identified current climate risks and vulnerabilities shared by the relevant community stakeholders.

Next Steps for NGYouthSDGs

- **Simplified Learning Resource Creation on NAP and NDCs for youths and youth CSOs:** To empower young Nigerians and CSOs with knowledge on climate policy, NGYouthSDGs will develop a user-friendly, interactive learning resource. This resource will break down complex concepts of the National Adaptation Plan and NDCs into easily digestible formats.
- **Local Adaptation Plan Co-creation:** Collaborate with the youth CSOs to finalise and implement LAPAs in five Nigerian states (Delta, Enugu, Kaduna, Nasarawa, and Ondo) by December 2024.
- **Launch of Climate Innovations:** Open applications for climate-smart innovations in November, 2024, followed by a pitching event for selected projects.
- **Youth Representation at COP29:** Advocate for increased youth participation at COP29 to highlight Nigeria's climate needs and share insights from the summit.
- **Youth-Led Innovations Spotlight:** Showcase innovative solutions by young Nigerians to inspire further climate action.
- **Project Documentary/Impact Reporting:** To ensure accountability and document the impact of the Empowering Youth Civil Societies , we will produce a comprehensive project documentary.
- **Exploring Collaboration with Government Agencies:** We understand the importance of collaboration with governmental bodies, such as the National Council on Climate Change (NCCC), to amplify youth voices in climate policies.
- **Provisioning of Capacity-building for Youths and Youths CSOs:** Provide continued capacity-building support for youths and youth CSOs, especially in areas such as report writing, stakeholder engagement and mobilisation, negotiation, financial management, program impact assessment, and monitoring and evaluation which have been identified as capacity needs.

Conclusion

The Nigeria Futures Summit 2024 highlighted the dedication, resilience, and creativity of Nigeria's youth in addressing the climate crisis. The summit's collaborative approach fostered practical solutions, strengthened networks, and clarified pathways for Nigeria's youth to actively contribute to national and global climate goals.

As NGYouthSDGs and its partners move forward, this summit will serve as a foundation for sustained youth involvement in climate resilience and policy influence, emphasising the role of Nigeria's youth as essential stakeholders in the fight against climate change.

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For any questions or concerns during your time as an associate, kindly reach out to us. Also, feel free to stay connected to us for more exciting opportunities and updates on our work via any of the following means:

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